



Islamabad POST

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Pakistan opposes new permanent seats in UNSC

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NAB never harasses any businessman

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Briefs

UNSC: Pak opposes new permanent seats

DNA

NEW YORK: Pakistan has opposed the creation of new permanent seats in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). Addressing the first meeting of Intergovernmental Negotiations Framework during the seventy fifth session of the UN, Pakistan's Permanent Representative at the world body Munir Akram said creation of new permanent seats will make the Security Council less representative, less effective, more divided and erode the principle of sovereign equality of states.

NAB source to defame politicians

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi Tuesday said the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) is a source to fail and defame politics in the country as all cases are based on lies to portray politicians as corrupt. The PML-N leader talked to media and said the department which is considered to hold accountability of others has itself become accountable but no one is here to question the institution. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said, "Why are those questions not asked from others that are asked from us? Is the government not accountable?"

WB to invest \$2 billion in Pakistan

DNA

LAHORE: Special Assistant to Chief Minister (SACM) on Information Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan has revealed that the WB is going to invest US\$2 billion in Pakistan. Addressing a press conference along with Punjab Livestock Minister Sardar Hasnain Bahadur Dreshak here on Tuesday, she said that under that investment programme, 5G goals had been set. She said that 5G goals include girls education, growing health, green clean Pakistan, governance and growth inclusive stunting.

Broadsheet probe body approved

The National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) compromised Pakistan's moral values" because politicians misused it: Shibli

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Cabinet on Tuesday approved constitution of the commission of inquiry on Broadsheet issue under the chairmanship of Justice Retired Azmat Saeed to bring truth before the nation. He said that "the National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) compromised Pakistan's moral values" because politicians misused it. Briefing the media about the decisions of Federal Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Imran Khan, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Shibli Faraz said the inquiry commission had been tasked to submit its findings on the Broadsheet issue within 45 days and expose those who had played key role in destroying country's economy. He said Broadsheet case had exposed as to how the past regimes had put political

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PM to address rally on Feb 5

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan is set to address a public rally in Kotli, near the Line of Control (LoC), on February 5, in honour of the Kashmir Solidarity Day, it emerged on Tuesday. According to a statement from the PTI, PM Imran Khan met his party's chief organiser Saifullah Niazi and former premier of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry. The PTI's statement said Barrister Chaudhry, who is also the president of the party's Azad Jammu and Kashmir chapter, and Niazi "called on PM Imran Khan at Islamabad today" for a detailed meeting wherein the premier "announced to visit Kotli LoC on February 5 and will address a gathering". - DNA

Direct flight from Islamabad to Kyrgyzstan starts

Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to Pakistan while talking to daily Islamabad Post termed the move significant adding direct flight shall promote business and tourist activities between the two countries

ANSAR BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has started direct flight from Islamabad to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The flight shall operate on weekly basis. Earlier another Central Asian Country Uzbekistan had direct flight from Lahore to Tashkent. The direct flight from Islamabad to Bishkek shall be chartered in the be-



ginning and may be run as commercial flight later on. The estimated round trip fare for Bishkek shall be USD 600, which shall con-

siderably be reduced once regular commercial flights start operations. Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to Pakistan while talking to daily Islamabad Post termed the move significant adding direct flight shall promote business and tourist activities between the two countries and Central Asia also. It may be mentioned here that people wishing to visit Central Asian states, can now utilize this route.



ISLAMABAD: Newly arrived High Commissioner of South Africa to Pakistan in a meeting with Ahmed Rabaei, Ambassador of the State of Palestine. DNA

S. African HC meets Palestine envoy

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Newly arrived High Commissioner of South Africa to Pakistan met Ahmed Rabaei, Ambassador of the State of Palestine to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan at his office in the Federal Capital Islamabad. Palestine Ambassador Ahmed Rabei welcomed the High Commissioner of South Africa and wished him all success in his tenure. During the meeting interest of mutual cooperation between the two embassies were discussed.

COVID-19 claims 58 more lives

ISLAMABAD: The national tally of total active COVID-19 cases in the country on Tuesday reached 34,412 with 1,873 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 1,223 people recovered from the disease during the last 24 hours. - DNA

JUI-F chief rubbishes dialogue rumors

Fazl said that he has asked PPP leadership to take other political parties into confidence regarding no-confidence movement

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman said that Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) was not holding dialogues with the federal government or establishment. Maulana Fazlur Rehman said in a statement that if anyone wants to hold talks with the PDM then the side would fulfill the demands first. Maulana Fazlur Rehman telephoned Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Quaid Nawaz Sharif and the three leaders agreed to intensify the anti-government movement. The telephonic calls made by Fazlur Rehman are part of informal consultations among coalition leaders before the February 4 sum-

Zardari for jointly contesting Senate polls

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: As the date for Senate elections comes closer, political manoeuvring nears its peak with both the ruling party and the Opposition devising plans to secure a majority in the upper house of the Parliament. According to a private news channel, the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) is mulling over jointly contesting the Senate poll. This idea has been proposed by PPP co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari. He believes that a joint-candidature would allow the Opposition alliance to secure more seats. The final decision will be made during the 11-party alliance's meeting slated for February 4. Meanwhile in Punjab, sources told media that Chief Minister Usman Buzdar continues to contact assembly members of Shehbaz Sharif-led PML-N and is trying to bring back estranged PTI members.

mit meeting of the PDM option of moving a no-confidence motion against the prime minister. He said that the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) suggested the option to move a no-confidence motion. He said that no progress is seen so far regarding the

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ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, Oybek Usmanov in a meeting with Advisor to Prime Minister on commerce and investment, Razak Dawood. - DNA

Chaos in New Delhi as farmers enter capital

There were no confirmed casualties

DNA

NEW DELHI: The government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi failed to stop protesting farmers despite police crackdown who entered the historic Red Fort complex in the capital and hoisted their flags. It was earlier reported that the Khalistan flag was hoisted atop the Red Fort. However, upon investigation, it was found to be the 'Nishan Sahib', which bears a close visual similarity to the Khalistan flag but has a very different symbolic meaning. Indian actor and activist, Deep Sidhu, who has been protesting for farmers' rights, posted a video on Facebook, clarifying that

only the Nishan Sahib was hoisted on the fort. "We have only hoisted the Nishan Sahib flag on the Red Fort while exercising our democratic right to protest." He said that in such protests, people become angry and that no one person can be blamed for committing an act of fury. He said that flag was hoisted as a sign of "unity in diversity". Growers, angered by laws they say help large, private buyers at the expense of producers, have camped outside New Delhi for almost two months, posing one of the biggest challenges to Prime Minister Narendra Modi since he came to power in 2014. There were no confirmed casualties but Tuesday's dis-

orderly scenes and lingering swirls of gas on the outskirts offered a sharp contrast with televised images of the serried precision of marchers in the city centre's annual military parade. Reuters television images showed thousands of farmers converging on the Red Fort, a historic spot from whose ramparts Modi delivers an annual speech, and milling outside its walls. "Modi will hear us now, he will have to hear us now," said Sukhdev Singh, 55, a farmer from the northern state of Punjab, who was among hundreds of protesters, some on horseback, who broke away from the main route of a tractor protest.

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Humanity is our only identity - Page 05

Bowlers dominate on opening day of first Pakistan, SA Test - Page 06

Political reforms package of Kazakhstan President presented - Page 07

'Entrecôte a new dining experience - Page 08

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Briefs

PR directs to expedite land retrieval efforts

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has directed the concerned quarters to expedite the efforts for retrieval of department's precious land by launching crackdown against the land mafia.

The directives had been issued by Minister for Railways Azam Khan Swati and in that regard he would hold meeting with all chief ministers for their assistance to retrieve Pakistan Railways land from encroachers, an official told APP.

Giving details of the land, he said Pakistan Railways owned 167,690 acres of land across the country, of which 90,326-acre is in Punjab, 39,428-acre in Sindh, 28,228-acre in Balochistan and 9,708-acre in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. To a question, he said Pakistan Railways had recovered around 383 acres precious land worth over Rs 30 billion under its anti-encroachment operation across the country during last two years.

"The encroachment operation has been launched with the assistance of railway police and district administrations," he added.

He said in a recent operation against land grabbers, the Rawalpindi Division had retrieved over seven acres railway land worth over Rs 116 million from the land encroachers. He said the Geographic Information System (GIS) survey had also been conducted under the project of computerization of railway land records in which all the encroachments and leases had been recorded in the Pakistan Railways Land Management Information System (PRLMS) software. The official said the database was under verification and being compiled. For the last two years, he said, Pakistan Railways has been doing its utmost to get the problem of land encroachment resolved where thousands of acres of land had been occupied for commercial, residential and agricultural purposes.

SHC orders for early decision on census results

DNA

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court on Tuesday issued orders for decision over the Census-2017 results in the next session of the Council of Common Interest (CCI). A bench of the high court heard a petition with regard to finalization of the results of sixth population census and delimitation of constituencies in Karachi for local councils elections. Assistant Attorney General (AAG) submitted a report from the federal government in the court. He informed the court that the federal cabinet has approved the population census and the matter has been sent to the CCI for its endorsement. "When the matter has been approved by the federal cabinet why an inordinate delay in the CCI," the bench questioned the federal lawyer. The court issued orders for an early decision by the CCI over the census results in its next session and adjourned further hearing of the case until February 24. It is to be mentioned here that the upcoming meeting of the Council of Common Interests has been notified to be held on Wednesday (Jan 27) with Prime Minister Imran Khan in the chair.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister, Imran Khan chairs federal cabinet meeting at Islamabad. – DNA

Govt ads: APNS asks ministry to implement proposals

It was specifically agreed upon that the classified ads will be reverted to advertising agencies as in the past to resolve the problems being faced in billing and payment procedures.

DNA

KARACHI: The All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) has called upon the information ministry to implement recommendations and proposals agreed upon during meeting of stakeholders and information ministry on December 7, 2020. In a letter written to the Information Secretary Shahera Shahid, the APNS Secretary General

Sarmad Ali drew the attention of the Secretary towards that meeting stating it was concluded that the Ministry of Information will streamline the government advertising procedures and amend the new mechanism being implemented after April 03, 2020. It was specifically agreed upon that the classified ads will be reverted to advertising agencies as in the past to resolve the problems being faced in billing and payment procedures.

It was also agreed upon that the client departments would be allowed to select the media of their choice with the right of PID to make additions / deletions in release of advertisements.

It is regretted that the agreed conclusions have not yet been notified instead a notification has been issued on January 08, 2021 where in the procedures of Centralized Advertising Policy were reinforced whereby the government depart-

ments were strictly forbidden to suggest the media of their choice. This action has caused massive decrease in the quantum of advertisements being released to regional and medium sized newspapers.

You would appreciate that in the era of decentralization and devolution, the insistence on centralization of media, would be disastrous for the growth of newspaper industry and would not only negate the democratic norms but also deprive the

departments / ministries / autonomous bodies to select the media of their choice as sponsoring clients are better aware and capable of selecting the media to reach their targeted audience.

The Secretary General requested the Information Secretary to allow the client departments to select the media for their advertisements and notify the decisions taken at the stakeholders meeting of December 08, 2020.

FCCI president demands revival of sick units

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Revival of the sick units is imperative to create ten million new jobs as promised by the Prime Minister Imran Khan. "It will also generate much needed economic activities in addition to enhancing national exports", said Engineer Hafiz Ihtasham Javed, President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI). He was addressing the first and introductory meeting of the newly created FCCI Standing Committee of his tenure on Revival of Sick Units. He said that the Prime Minister has firm resolve that resolutions of national problems are interlinked with the speedy

growth of the industrial sector and hence he was focusing on this sector. Engineer Hafiz Ihtasham Javed also eulogized the cooperation of the local parliamentarians who are fully supporting him for the revival of sick units. "They had already arranged a number of meetings with the Prime Minister and his advisor on Commerce Mr. Razak Dawood to remove the bottlenecks. President FCCI said that two sick units have become partially functional while efforts are being further expedited to revive the remaining sick units. He said that it is a very ticklish job as many public and private banks are directly involved in it. Hence we have to decide these issues on a "case to case" basis.

'Jump in power tariff will ruin export industries'

DNA

KARACHI: Abdul Hadi, President SITE Association of Industry, has in press statement, termed the government decision to discontinue gas supply to general industries from 1st Feb and export-oriented sectors from 1st march as 'disastrous' for the industry. He said that on the one hand, the Prime Minister of Pakistan advocates increasing of exports, cut down in imports and creation of more jobs for the people, while on the other hand, anti-indus-

try and anti-exports steps are being taken by the government which is beyond comprehension. "Industrialists fail to understand what is the actual policy of the government, in current circumstances, the vision of Prime Minister cannot be transformed into reality", he added. Giving details of increase in power tariff, Abdul Hadi said that 2 months ago, government announced reduction in tariff on excess use of electricity. Now the government has announced to increase power tariff which will ultimately increase the cost of production.

TBH to generate green jobs, boost exports, says Amin

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam Tuesday said Prime Minister's 10 Billion Tree Honey project would generate millions of green jobs and boost untapped potential of honey exports of the country. Addressing the inaugural session of a one-day national workshop and the Launching of the National Apiculture Programme or Apiculture Scaling up Programme for Income and Rural Employment (ASPIRE), which was the country's first largest honey bee-keeping promotion programme, he said proper branding, sampling and international standard packaging of the honey produced under the 10 Billion Honey (TBH) would be ensured to at-

tract precious foreign exchange. Amin said: "All experts related to the field of Apiculture are present here to guide in devising a national streamlined programme which would be rolled out to the provinces for implementation." He added that the pilot project was going to be launched tomorrow (Wednesday) whereas its complete outcomes would be received by June this year which would help lead to full-fledged launch of TBH project. The SAPM underscored that the National Bank of Pakistan was going to provide Rs9 billion to the masses interested to join honey bee farming or Apiculture programme. "The Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC) has linked TBH and trees raised under 10

BTT plantation to the state-of-the-art technology developed by the Ministry of Science and Technology whereas National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) will train the interested youth on latest techniques of honey bee farming." He said honey bees were playing a proactive role in habitat conservation through increased pollination helping in enhancing plant growth and productivity. "In the US, honeybees are kept in huge orchards not to yield honey rather boost crop productivity." The SAPM noted that the aim of the project was to protect plantation of 10BTT through habitat conservation and raising economic dividends out of plantation through honey farming.



ISLAMABAD: Afghan ambassador to Pakistan, Najibullah Alikhil met with Adam Tugio, ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan. Both discussed the ongoing Afghan peace process and the vital role of Indonesia and Ulemas of the Islamic countries in stopping violence which will contribute to achieve a durable peace in Afghanistan. – DNA

PU to re-open in two phases from Feb 1

LAHORE: Punjab University will re-open in two phases with the first phase beginning from February 1 while the second phase will start from April 1. According to a hand-out issued here on Tuesday, in the first phase, from February 1 – March 31, students of M.S/M.Phil and Ph.D. programs, who have completed their course work and need to complete their research work, will be entitled the hostel facility from 01.02.2021, subject to the recommendations of the supervisors, HODs and deans.

In the first phase, course work of BS 1st and 8th semesters, M.A/M.Sc. 1st and 4th semesters, M.A/M.Sc., LL.M., 2nd year under annual program, newly admitted M.S/M.Phil. and Ph.D. students attending face to face classes and availing hostel facility, should be completed by 31st March, 2021 as condensed semester. During the first phase, BS 1st semester and newly promoted students of B.S 8th semester and M.A/M.Sc. 1st Semester & 4th Semester are allowed face to face classes along with hostel facility (if required), from 1st February, 2021.

Furthermore, students of B.S 8th semester and M.A/M.Sc. 4th semester will avail the hostel facility (if required) after completion of their previous semesters i.e., BS 7th Semester & M.A/M.Sc. 3rd semester online exams. He said that the hostel facility will only be available to those students who will attend face to face classes subject to the clearance of all hostel and departmental dues before applying for hostel accommodation to the Chairman, Hall Council. Students of all semesters would have options to attend face to face/online classes, however, students attending online classes will get fee exemptions in medical fee, library fee sports fee, transport fee and hostel fee. – APP

Saving the future of Pakistan with online learning

DNA

LAHORE: Noon Academy, an international EdTech startup that is pioneering the concept of social learning, has expanded its online studying platform to Pakistan. They offer daily live classes for all major subjects from Pakistan's leading teachers, completely free through their mobile application and website.

Their live classes cover all major subjects for classes 8-13 for all major local boards (Matric & Intermediate), Cambridge (O& A-Levels), and different universities' entrance tests such as LUMS, IBA & NUST. Kickstarting its local operations in September, 2020, the platform has already grown to 200,000 students in January. Students who are affected by the challenges post Covid-19, can prepare for their upcoming exams through comprehensive preparation courses which are taught by highly qualified teachers, completely online, accessible from the safety of their homes and adapted for the smart syllabus. Noon Academy is one of the fastest-growing EdTech startups in the world. Currently headquartered in London, they started off in 2013 with an idea that technology can have a multiplier effect by connecting the best teachers to students anywhere. Over time through it has transformed into a social learning platform using interactive elements such as gamification, study groups, team-based learning and contests.

GB's immense potential in tourism to be fully exploited: President

GILGIT: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday said Gilgit Baltistan would be developed at par with rest of the country by exploiting its immense potential in tourism and investment in diverse sectors. Addressing the provincial cabinet members of Gilgit Baltistan Secretariat here, the President said

the federal government was firm to ensure uniform development of areas, including Gilgit Baltistan. The President felicitated the newly formed government of GB and called the need for its active role for the prosperity of the area. He said the serene areas of GB could attract domestic and

international tourists, adding that influx of two million tourists before COVID-19 to the area was quite welcoming. Dr Alvi mentioned that Prime Minister Imran Khan was considering to launch a project regarding the expansion of Gilgit Airport, a draft of which would also be shared with the GB government. He said the federal government had initiated a welfare programme for the uplift of poor, besides disbursing Rs 2,000 per month among the disabled persons. The President said GB was rich in alternative energy resources including hydel and solar power generation. He expressed satisfaction over the literacy rate in GB, which was better as compared to rest of the country. Chief Minister GB Khalid Khursheed and secretaries concerned of the relevant departments including minerals, health and tourism gave an in-depth briefing to the President. – APP



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Briefs

Campaign 'Give way to ambulance' launched

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Anjuman Faizul Islam has launched an awareness campaign on how important it is to give way to ambulances. According to Secretary General, Anjuman Faizul Islam Raja Fatah Khan, the campaign started in collaboration with Riphah University in twin cities, Rawalpindi and Islamabad to highlight importance of giving way to ambulances.

He said that efforts were being made to sensitize public and make the campaign a success by road activities and awareness by the students of the Anjuman Faizul Islam. Fatah Khan said, at times, timely transport of patient to hospital becomes a matter of life and death. A number of people have lost their lives because ambulance was caught in traffic, he added.

In-charge, Riphah University, English Access Programme, Kiran Mehmood said that can you imagine that you're stuck in an ambulance waiting for the vehicles to move so that you can reach the hospital to save the life of someone you love? The ambulance blaring siren and flashing lights yet no one moves. This is what typically happens on several the roads.

CTP educates citizens to ensure safety of road users

RAWALPINDI: Education Wing of City Traffic Police (CTP) on Tuesday delivered lectures and distributed pamphlets at different terminals of public service vehicles in the city and also educated the road users on different roads. According to In-charge CTP Education Wing, Inspector Asif Mirza, the Education Wing on the special directives of chief traffic officer, (CTO) Rawalpindi was educating the drivers of PSV and other road users about traffic rules and road safety.

He said, Education Wing of CTP under a traffic awareness campaign was delivering lectures and distributing pamphlets at different terminals of public service vehicles and roads in the city. He said, the citizens particularly drivers were being given tips about lane/line discipline, traffic rules, road safety and advantages of keeping to the correct lanes. The drivers should follow traffic rules, he said adding, the campaign was started to acquaint the people with traffic laws while inculcating better traffic sense among them. He said, CTP was making efforts to maintain traffic discipline on the roads and involving the community in eliminating traffic violations. - APP

Footwear exports decline 5.03%

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The footwear exports witnessed decline of 5.03 percent during the first half of financial year 2020-21 as compared to the corresponding period of last year. Pakistan exported footwear worth \$64.764 million during July-December (2020-21) as against the exports of \$68.195 million during July-December (2019-20), showing decline of 5.03 percent, according to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). Among the footwear products, the exports of leather footwear went down by 5.55 percent from \$58.186 million last year to \$54.955 million during the period under review while the canvas footwear also decreased by 20.94 percent from \$0.234 million to \$0.185 million. In addition, the export of all other footwear commodities also dipped by 1.54 percent from \$9.775 to \$9.624 million. Meanwhile, on year-on-year basis, the footwear exports however increased by 12.19 percent from \$11.760m in December 2019 to \$13.193m December 2020.



ISLAMABAD: CEO Serena Hotels Aziz Boolani posing for a picture with athletes from Gilgit during a reception he hosted at the Islamabad Serena Hotel. - DNA

CDA to upgrade sector D-12 with parks, tracks

The construction of jogging and cycle tracks will provide the residents with an opportunity to enjoy some refreshing moments right at the bottom of the Margallah Hills

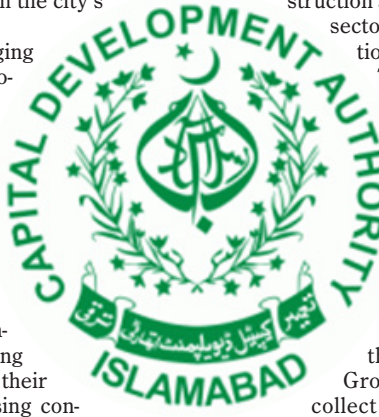
DNA

ISLAMABAD: A Project-Concept-I (PC-I) for development of five parks along with jogging and cycling tracks in the Sector, D-12 has been prepared as part of the campaign to develop, restore and beautify public parks in the capital city. According to the details provided by the Environment Directorate of the Capital Development Authority (CDA), the work on the parks and jogging/cycling tracks would be initiated soon in coordination with other relevant departments. Being one of the oldest areas of the federal capital the sector D-12 lies adjacent to Mar-

gallah Hills, far away from the city's hustle and bustle.

The construction of jogging and cycle tracks will provide the residents with an opportunity to enjoy some refreshing moments right at the bottom of the Margallah Hills.

The local people informed that the sector D-12 is among the sectors where large numbers of people are carrying out construction on their plots. So due to increasing con-



struction activities, the roads of this sector are in dilapidated condition and need repair work.

The civic authority has also made arrangements to remove encroachment and make the required land available for these projects.

The minutes of the meeting held by Capital Development Authority (CDA) Member Engineering showed that the 'D-12 Resident Group' has taken steps to collect solid waste and ensure

security and surveillance in the sector on self-help basis.

The newly constructed boundary wall to prevent encroachment would be demolished to secure the right of way. The left over carriageway would be constructed after seeking clearance from the Enforcement Directorate.

A fence would be constructed in sector D-12 at 300-foot distance from the plotline after removal of encroachment.

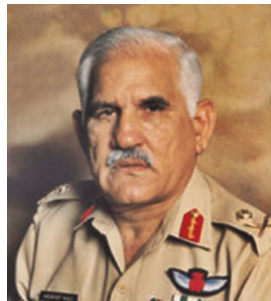
The removal of wild growth and up keeping of greens/ medians would be arranged as per other areas of Islamabad. The construction and beautification of footpaths is also currently under way by the environment directorate.

IEP holds reference for Late Maj Gen (R) Engr Hidayatullah

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A condolence reference was held at the Institution of Engineers Islamabad to pay tribute to Major Gen (r) Engr Hidayatullah Khan Niazi who died on 30th December 2020. Secretary IEP Islamabad Gp Capt (r) Engr. Najamuddin informed the gathering of Engineers on the achievements and services of Late Maj Gen Hidayatullah khan who had the unique distinction to have served in '2' Arms namely; Corp of Engineers and Army Aviation.

As a hero of 1965 war, he flew valiant tactical mission on an Army Aviation Aircraft to know the deployment of Indian Armoured Division in Chawinda area and encountered heavy Indian guns fire with 32 direct hits but ensured that after



finding the valuable information landed the aircraft safely at Sialkot aerodrome. For his extraordinary courage and successful mission, he was awarded the gallantry Award of Sitara-e-Jurrat. On return to his parent Corp of Engineers from Army Aviation, he progressed in different important assignments to become a Major General. Chairman IEP Local Centre in his speech recalled his association with Late General as Secretary of Engineers

Cooperative Housing Society (ECHS) Islamabad. He apprised the audience that Gen Niazi was a humble, straight forward and upright person who as a President of ECHS has played a pivotal role in making the Housing Society a success and free from any financial scandals, and this has been a great service to the Engineers of Rawalpindi-Islamabad. He further added that the Late General was a par excellence Administrator who will take a right decision and then stick to it. Chairman IEP also mentioned about his strong management as Administrator at DHA Karachi wherein despite odds he had been instrumental in recovering most of the encroached land. Subsequently, DUA was offered for the departed soul of Late Maj Gen Engr Hidayatullah khan Niazi.

AIOU starts special desk for special students

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has established a facilitation desk at the main campus of the university to facilitate its disabled students. The initiative was taken to prevent differently-abled students from any difficulty while applying for admission, degree/certificate or performing any other routine academic activity at the university.

Rana Tariq Javed, Director, Directorate of Students Affairs and Counseling Services has said that the university has established this facilitation desk on the special directives of Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum, Vice Chancellor, AIOU. He further said that workers from his department would provide special assistance to these people and the directorate has provided a wheelchair in the information lobby to support them. - DNA

BISP conducting nationwide survey: Senate told

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Parliamentary Affairs, Dr Babar Awan on Tuesday apprised the Senate that Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) was conducting a nationwide survey to update National Socio Economic Registry (NSER). In response to various questions during Question Hour, he said various approaches/ strategies had been adopted including door-to-door survey, desk based registration and teachers based census model to update BISP database.

Dr. Babar Awan said once the data collection process was completed, updated National Socio Economic Registry would be utilized for various social safety net initiatives of the government. He said province-wise summary of desk based registration centers/ sites were being established across the country for registration of poor people.

He said out of total 264 sites across the country, 174 were operational sites. Sharing the details of operational sites, he said there were 54 sites in Balochistan, 86 in Sindh, 20 in Punjab, 14 in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. As many as 12 more sites in Balochistan and 4 in Sindh would be operationalized in next week, he added.

He said: To another question, Dr Babar said the Cabinet Implementation Committee (CIC) in its 34th meeting held on July 7, inter alia recommended and directed Finance Division to abolish all posts that have remained vacant for more than one year in BPS-1-16 in all Ministries/ Divisions and Executive Departments". Since above mentioned CIC decision required ratification by the Federal Cabinet, a summary for the Prime Minister was moved by Establishment Division routed through Finance, Law & Justice and Cabinet Divisions, he said. - DNA

GM IESCO to hold online Katchary

DNA

ISLAMABAD: General Manager Operations Islamabad Electric Supply Company will hold online Katchary today to address the consumers complaints. According to IESCO spokesman, online katcharies were being conducted regularly. As per the schedule, the GM (Operations) IESCO would hold online Katchary on Wednesday on telephone No. 051-9253105.

He will attend complaints/suggestions of customers from 11:00 am to 12:00 noon. IESCO requested valued customers to participate in open katchary for immediate solution of their complaints.

No rain spell in current week: PMD

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) Spokesman Dr Khalid Malik Tuesday said no rain spell was expected in the federal capital during the current week. Talking to APP, he said the new rain spell was expected from the first week of February.

He said in February a couple of rain spells were expected which could be beneficial for the agriculture sector.

During the ongoing week, he said, the weather pattern was slightly changed. There was chance of two days rain spell on January 23 but it was occurred at north side of the country, he added. - APP

Six arrested for illegal LPG decanting

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi police have arrested six shopkeepers on charge of decanting LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) illegally in various parts of the city.

A police spokesperson said that the police raided at illegal LPG refilling points and arrested six shopkeepers from Ganjmandi, R.A. Bazaar and Airport police station areas and caught the accused while they were illegally decanting gas.

He said, Ahsan ul Haq, Manazar Hussain, Rafiqullah, Muhammad Imran, Jahanzaib and Abdullah were sent behind the bars and recovered gas cylinders and other items from their possession. Police have registered separate cases against all the accused while further investigations were underway, he added.

He said, Rawalpindi police on the directives of City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi Muhammad Ahsan Younas were conducting raids to check and stop the illegal business of LPG in Rawalpindi district as a large number of gas refilling shops were not following the safety measures and putting the lives of the citizens at risk. - APP

3 burglars held, stolen cash recovered

ISLAMABAD: The Khanna police on Tuesday arrested three members of burglar gang and recovered cash worth Rs 2.5 million from them, a police spokesman said. On a tip off, SP (Rural-Zone) Farooq Amjad Buttar constituted a team comprising officials of Khanna police station to raid at the hideouts of burglars.

The team under the supervision of DSP Mubarak Ali including SHO Khanna Sub-Inspector Muhammad Kamal, ASI Zaheer and others successfully arrested three burglars. The nabbed persons were identified as Yasir Hussain, Nazir and Ilyas. During the preliminary investigation, they confessed to strike at different places of city while the police are hopeful for more recovery from them.

SSP (Operations) Dr Syed Mustafa Tanvir appreciated the performance and asked for renewed efforts to curb such practices and get rid of society from such menace. The SSP also categorically asked all police officials to focus on resolving the public complaints and take every possible step to provide maximum relief to the citizens. - APP

A consistent approach on Kashmir urged

Speaking at the event titled 'India under Modi', former diplomat Amb Aziz Ahmed Khan called for a consistency of Pakistani stance on Kashmir in line with the UN Security Council resolutions

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Speakers of a panel discussion organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) here on Tuesday urged a consistent policy approach towards Kashmir by Pakistan. Speaking at the event titled 'India under Modi', former diplomat Amb Aziz Ahmed Khan called for a consistency of Pakistani stance on Kashmir in line with the UN Security Council resolutions. Amb Khan was of the view that despite aggressive regional posturing by India and illegal draconian actions against the people of the India-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK), Pakistan needed to stick to putting diplomatic pressure on the Indian government to resolve

the dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions. He further called for engaging Pakistani and Kashmiri diaspora abroad and a diplomatic push on the Western capitals. President IRS Amb Nadeem Riyaz added that Pakistan needed not only to engage governments and diaspora but also the parliaments and think-tanks of Western countries. Speaking on India under Modi, Amb Khan was of the view that while former Indian prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee represented the softer version of Hindutva, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was implementing the hardline version of it. He shared that Modi had never even expressed regret over the massacre of Muslims in Gujarat while he was the chief minister of the state, let alone apologize for

it. Further alluding towards the hardline Hindutva ideology of the current Prime Minister of India, Amb Khan shared that while Modi proudly adorned headgears of various kinds in public, he was never wearing a Muslim skullcap, which spoke of his prejudice towards the Muslims.

Amb Khan further stated that while the Modi-led ruling BJP was benefitting from the weaknesses of Congress as the only other national-level political party, the farmers' protest could force it to withdraw the three controversial farm laws. He expressed his concern over the ongoing delimitation exercise in India-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK). He was of the view that it was aimed at creating seven new constituen-

cies in Jammu to offset the majority of Muslim constituencies in the state assembly of IOJK.

Dr Zafar Nawaz Jaspal of the Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) expressed his concerns over the aggressive regional policy of India under Modi. He was of the view that the Indian regional policy formulation was inspired by the mandalas concept enunciated by the Indian political philosopher Chanakya by virtue of which a neighboring country had to remain an unfriendly country by definition. He also expressed his concern over the transformation of Indian nuclear posture towards Pakistan from deterrence to what he called 'compellence'. Jaspal was of the view that India was now strongly allied with the US and was, thus, no longer a

non-aligned country. Dr Raja Qaiser Ahmed of QAU that the revocation of Article 370 of the Indian Constitution was completely unconstitutional. He shared that any change to the article had to be endorsed by the incumbent government of the state of IOJK as per the Indian Constitution. He added, however, that for repeal of the article, the Constitution prescribed its approval by the Constituent Assembly, which no longer existed. Therefore, he argued that Article 370 could not be constitutionally abrogated. He added that the Modi government had hatched a plan to endorse the abrogation through the Assembly of IOJK once it is elected after the demographic change in the state with migration of a large number of Hindus.

Briefs

Misconduct with woman: SI suspended

RAWALPINDI: A Sub Inspector was suspended on complaint against him for misbehaving with a woman in Taxila jurisdiction. The police spokesman here on Tuesday informed that a woman lodged a complaint with City Police Officer CPO Muhammad Ahsan Younas about the inappropriate behavior of SI Mohammad Gultaj of Taxila Police Station.

In compliance with her report during the Open Court by the CPO, inquiry was conducted against the accused Sub Inspector, who was suspended after finding him guilty. The inquiry committee comprised of SP Security Zaneer Azfar and DSP Headquarters Azhar Hassan. - APP

Meeting discuss, review progress for revival of PSM

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Privatization Mohammedmian Soomro and Federal Minister for Industries and Production co-chaired an important meeting which reviewed and discussed the progress made in the revival of Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM).

Federal Secretary Privatization, Secretary, Additional Secretary Industries, and other senior officials of the ministry attended the meeting. Chairman and CFO PSM, participated via video link, said a press release issued here Tuesday.

The revival of PSM would be undertaken as per the approved decision of Cabinet Committee on Privatization (CCoP), transfer of core assets of PSM to a subsidiary owned wholly by the PSM which will be followed by the sale of majority shares of the subsidiary thus formed without transfer of full ownership. The Ministry of Privatization is actively following the scheme of arrangement and transaction structure is already approved and a meeting to that effect is also being held today. In the meeting, the ministers were briefed about the current status and progress and probable timeline for the completion of said transaction. The valuation of core assets to be transferred to a new subsidiary is underway and will likely be completed by 31st January, 2021. Moreover the other matters relating to the use of jetty, registration of a new subsidiary and others were deliberated upon in detail. - APP

Farrukh seeks Fazl's money-trail

ISLAMABAD: Central leader Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Farrukh Habib on Tuesday said that Chief of Jamiat-e-Ulema Islam (F) Maulana Fazalur Rehman has to show the money-trail of all his property and assets which he purchased from the foreign funding. Talking to media outside the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), he said that now Maulana Fazalur Rehman cannot avoid hiding sources of his foreign funding as an application has been submitted in this regard with the commission. He advised him to produce money-trail instead of playing the card of political victimization and holding agitation in front of ECP. "Actually all those political parties involved in foreign funding are united against the government for sake of NRO," he remarked.

He said that Maulana Fazalur Rehman has to explain his position on charges of leaders of his own party that he received foreign funding from Iraq and Libya. "In this case it was he who only could respond the queries raised on his properties and assets which he purchased from such illegal money." Mr. Habib said that instead of hurling the allegations, Maulana Fazalur Rehman should come up with evidences to nullify the allegations of Hafiz Hussain Ahmad and Maulana Muhammad Khan Sherrani about his involvement in foreign funding.



ISLAMABAD: President Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mohammad Nasir Mirza visited German embassy and met with Bernhard Schlagheck ambassador of Germany to Pakistan. - DNA

Kuwait perceives Pakistan as a brotherly country: Assistant FM

Ambassador Alsaeed commended the efforts of the Pakistani medical team that had visited Kuwait last year and offered their expertise in assisting the authorities in Kuwait during the outbreak

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: "I bring a message of love, brotherhood and cooperation for the people of Pakistan from Kuwait." This was stated by Ambassador Ali Sulaiman Alsaeed, Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs of the State of Kuwait during his address at a Public Talk organized by the Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad here on Tuesday. H.E Nasar Abdul Rahman J. Almutairi the Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to Pakistan was also in attendance. Members of the diplomatic corps in Islamabad, academics, civil society, and former and current diplomats



were also present.

Ms. Amina Khan, Director Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East & Africa (CAMEA) gave welcome remarks. Ambassador Alsaeed emphasized the importance of Pakistan as a significant country for the entire region and the world. He said that Kuwait is a small but active country with region-wide diplomatic outreach. There are plenty of opportunities for both these countries to collaborate for the betterment of the entire region. He went on to say that Kuwait perceives Pakistan as a brotherly country and praised the strong and capable diplomats of Pakistan for their efforts to cultivate peace and prosperity in the entire region.

'Youth centers being set up for career counseling'

The SAPM said the youth's participation in policy making was imperative as they constituted 60 per cent of the country's population



ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Youth Affairs Muhammad Usman Dar Tuesday said youth centers were being set up across the country to address unemployment issues of young people through career counseling. Usman Dar told this to the delegation of National Dialogue Forum comprising students of 15 universities. The delegation including participants from all federating units was called on him at the Prime Minister's Office, said a news release. The SAPM said the youth's participation in policy making was imperative as they constituted 60 per cent of the country's population. The present government had formed National Youth Council (NYC) for the purpose, he added. Usman Dar said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf came into the power with the support of Pakistani youth that was why it was committed to their well-

fare and development.

"After 18th amendment, youth is a provincial subject, but under the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan, the federal government has taken historic initiatives for youth development", he maintained. He said National Youth Development Framework (NYDF) was a comprehensive road-map designed for youth development by our government, which was implemented through PM Kanyab Jawan Programme. The SAPM elaborated that the programme included Rs 100 billion Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme, skills programme and other major initiatives related to youth empowerment.

Quota for the students from Balochistan in technical education courses would be enhanced, he stressed. He said people of newly 'emerged' districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would soon witness a positive change in the near future as no one had ever paid attention to those areas. The visiting students shared their views on various issues faced by youth. They also gave suggestions to improve various initiatives taken for the betterment of Pakistani youth. - APP

'CDA to increase jurisdiction of sanitation department'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) has decided to increase the jurisdiction of its Sanitation department to rural areas and suburbs of city here on Tuesday. In the first phase the sanitation work has been started in Sohan, Pindorian, Zia Masjid, Khhana Pull, Tramri, and Lehtrar road. 200 ton of garbage was removed from the said areas yesterday.

According to detail, the current administration of CDA is taking great interest in the projects of development, sanitation, infrastructure, and beautification in the city. The



administration has started work on various projects. CDA has been receiving the applications of citizens for increasing the

jurisdiction of sanitation department to suburbs of the city. While considering the applications of masses CDA has begun work ac-

cordingly. More than 100 sanitary workers, 3 excavators, 10 dumpers, and other machinery took part in the cleanliness opera-

tion conducted by CDA on Tuesday. The sanitation operation is underway under the supervision of Director Sanitation.

'Hypersonic missile tech to start a new arms race in the region'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Arms Control and Disarmament Centre (ACDC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized an in-house discussion meeting on "Hypersonic Missile Race: Regional and Global Implications" on January 26, 2021. The ISSI research faculty and members of the ACDC Advisory Board attended the event. Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC, moderated the discussion. In her presentation, Ms. Ghazala Yasmin Jalil, Research Fellow at ACDC-ISSI, provided a comprehensive

technical overview of the hypersonic missiles and their three main types: guided ballistic missiles; boost-glide missiles; and hypersonic missiles. "What makes hypersonic missiles lethal is not just their speed but their post-launch maneuverability," she said. Russia is already using the hypersonic boost-glide vehicle for its Avangard ICBM in addition to the hypersonic cruise missiles like Kinzhal and Tsirkan. The United States of America also has hypersonic missiles that are aimed at neutralizing Russian and Chinese hypersonic missile development. This great power competition will affect the strategic calculations, undermine

nuclear deterrence, and increases the chances of a strategic conflict.

While highlighting the regional security implications, she said that development of hypersonic missile technology would start a new arms race that would change the nuclear deterrence calculations between India and Pakistan. India has now joined the global race and only five to six years away from developing hypersonic missiles. India is working on a hypersonic cruise missile BrahMos-II in collaboration with Russia. It would create first strike temptations on the part of New Delhi, which will further make the South Asian nuclear theatre more unstable.

Ten-day Cleaning drive in full swing

ABBOTTABAD: A ten days cleaning drive which started in Hazara division the other day was in full swing on Tuesday. In district, Abbottabad Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Water and Sanitation Company Abbottabad (WASCA) Noor Qasim Khan and Solid Waste Management engineer Javed Abbasi has started the 10 days cleaning drive which will continue till 3rd February 2021. CEO WASCA said that all previous drives remained successful owing to the hard work of staff adding that the current cleaning drive would also achieve its targets to make city. He said that this cleaning campaign will provide a congenial environment to the citizens and tourists. During the drive, sanitation workers will collect garbage from streets, open plots, ravines, nullahs, graveyards and steepes, they would also dispose of the garbage at dumping sites, he said. He informed that WASCA will launch an awareness campaign for the masses to avoid throwing garbage in the open, roadsides, streets and other than the garbage dumping sites in their areas. - APP

PAL, PTMIS to hold children literature seminar

SHUJAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) Chairman Dr Yousuf Khushk Tuesday held a meeting with Country Director of Pak-Turkish Maarif International Schools and Colleges Foundation Harun Kucukaladagli and agreed to hold International Children Literature Seminar in March this year.

They discussed matters of mutual interest and further strengthening of literary ties between the two countries, an official informed APP. Harun Kucukaladagli said the Inter-



national Seminar on Children's Literature would be useful for the new generation of both the countries. He said such seminars would help bring the two countries more closer together in the field of literature. Dr. Yousuf Khushk said that holding an international seminar on children's literature was a matter of urgency. He said that this seminar would be a milestone in the promotion of children's literature. Harun Kucukaladagli and Dr. Yousuf Khushk agreed to work together to make the International Seminar on Children's Literature effective and purposeful.

Achieving SDGs

THE Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Report 2020 ranks Pakistan at 134 out of 166 countries. Pakistan was ranked 130th in 2019. Regress on the ranking means the government needs to do more. We have a ten-year slot and the challenges in all goals are enormous and can result in our failure to achieve them by 2030. It is important that policymakers sit together and find out the best way forward to overcome the hurdles that are making it difficult for us to be on the right track. Out of 17 SDGs, Pakistan is struggling with 13. Even the three goals where we have shown some progress do not indicate that we have achieved them. The authorities must realise that we cannot achieve all these goals by 2030 if we do not show serious commitment. Despite the government's efforts in reducing hunger, the issue is not subsiding anytime soon. Similarly, the state is struggling hard to ensure that every child of the country gets a quality education. Moreover, according to a report by the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef), 53,000 Pakistani children under five die every year from diarrhoea due to poor water and sanitation. 70 percent of households consume contaminated water. The SDGs dashboard informs us that even the primary jobs that are the state's responsibilities have not improved—in condition or in access. Only a week ago, the first sub-committee meeting of the National Economic Council (NEC) gauged Pakistan's performance on SDGs. The meeting's participants rightly pointed out that better implementation and coordination are must for achieving the SDGs. Actionable plans lie in waiting, projects that have not received the proper attention of the authorities are wanting. It is time for the government to look to improve the standard of life in Pakistan for the average citizen.

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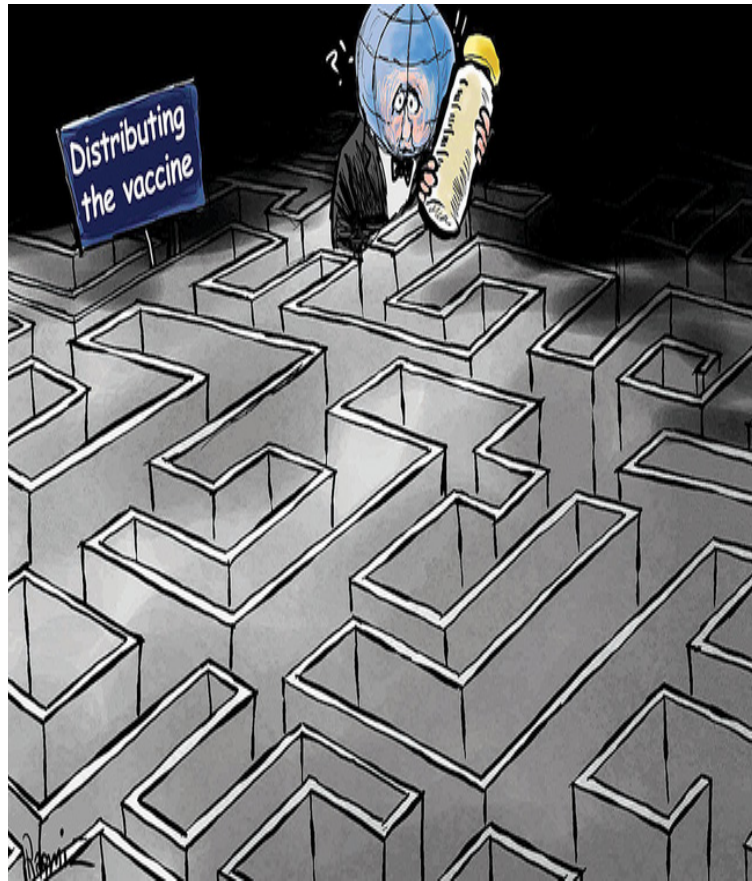
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A predictable outcome

AT the turn of the year, the back and forth between the Lahore Waste Management Company and the contractors it had hired a few years ago for operational waste cleaning came to a head. LWMC refused to renew the contract, and decided that it would look after the logistics of waste management in the provincial capital on its own. It even went as far as to take over the machinery the Turkish contractors had brought in for use in Lahore, and claimed that it had the right to repossess this equipment. After this unnecessarily forceful decision, which looked to have the backing of the provincial government, LWMC's performance in the past month indicates that it might have been overly hasty in rushing to cancel the agreement. A legal battle awaits, and to top it all off, Lahore has never been dirtier. Waste dumps that are to be cleaned regularly are accumulating garbage, becoming an environmental hazard without any solution posed by the LWMC, apart from making its insufficient staff members carry out extra shifts. The worst part of all of this is that this was not short of predictable. LWMC knew it lacked the manpower and the technical know-how to carry out this serious responsibility, and yet it did not make arrangements to either extend the agreement, or find new contractors if it was displeased with the performance of the Turkish company. A course correction is desperately needed. LWMC must first ensure that the legal proceedings do not result in further embarrassment or losses in terms of penalties paid. For this, it must do its homework and have an airtight case for why it sought for both a dismissal and confiscating the equipment. Beyond that, an urgent solution must be formulated to clean up Lahore. We have seen how easy it is for a large city to quickly become unsanitary and unsafe for residents due to piles of garbage and waste—as evidenced in Karachi. Let's make sure that Lahore does not head down the same path.

Humanity is our only identity

Wajeeha Bilal



This scribe has addressed the effect of human feelings in detail in "The Conscious Ego", that also talks about the Paris massacre of 1961 with an underlying story: "...One claiming to be superior to the other, though there is no proof of superiority being confined to appearances. If our creator had created us with the intention of love, then why would He make us different in appearances that could become a source of dispute in our lives?"

MANY people connect the origin of racism to slavery, or they believe that racism persists into contemporary times because racist ideas are passed down from one generation to the next. Racism does not demonstrate itself so easily. True racism would require being able to have power over someone else, but a skin colour is not sufficient to help people do that. It shows up in different ways; you can sometimes see it in the energy of people or sense it in their tones or actions. God created only one race – i.e. the humans. It is the humans who have created racism. As truthfully as we know in our own spirit that we do not think of ourselves as racists, then how come we see and hear about people being treated differently based on colour. If it is not us and there is no such thing as racism, then why are some of us still a victim to this horrible word. Cultural and ethnic disparities do exist, like the distinction between the shade of my hair and the hue of your hair is no more substantial genetically than the tint of my hair and the hue of my children's hair. Let us all understand that, when we call each other brothers and sisters that is truly real. It is the focus on our similarities not the differences that makes us humans. While it may still be true that your skin could be fair or dark, your body is eventually bound to go to the grave with that skin one day. We may clear out the notion of races, but racism still exists. And if you are raised in this society as a fair

beautiful kid like those Disney characters who are the protagonists for our little generations, it's hard to believe that you will grow up not thinking that you are superior because everything in society steers towards telling you that. Even if your parents do not emphasize, everything that you see – the magazines, TV ads and even the society places stress on that. There is a strong relationship between pride and superior representation of light skin on social media just as low self-esteem is related to the misrepresentation of coloured skin that can cause confusion about aspects of identity among children of different colour. While media and society have played some role in imparting the idea of a superior skin, the major reason for racism lies behind the human feelings. Most important of it being due to fear and ego. Fear of differences causes people to form communities and have their own rituals. For such people, whose lives are run by fear and not conscious decisions, that is what makes them form their own groups. As for them community is a good thing, it brings people like them together; people who think alike, talk alike or even look alike, it gives them a sense of security. They feel protected against those who do not. This scribe has addressed the effect of human feelings in detail in "The Conscious Ego", that also talks about the Paris massacre of 1961 with an underlying story: "...One claiming to be superior to the other, though there is no proof

of superiority being confined to appearances. If our creator had created us with the intention of love, then why would He make us different in appearances that could become a source of dispute in our lives? I wondered, while taking notes, as my mom's word seeped in my ears..." The fact is we are much more alike than we are different. I believe that the different colours of human race represent nothing but a work of art by the Creator. We cannot be threatened by our differences and exclude those who seem to be different than us in any way. Races and communities do not bring people closer but throw them apart. So how can we heal a nation that is divided along race, class and political lines? If you are only connecting with the people who are like you and people who endanger you the least, you are excluding almost all of God's creation from your community. As we become more and more conscious, we begin to see the similarities that we could not have imagined before. A universal community that excludes none, is the community we must address and hope to see. No matter where you are, strive to be a universal human who loves and appreciates all different creations. "Love is a key part of creating communities that work for everyone and not just the few at the expense of the many", are the resounding words of great Martin Luther King.

– Wajeeha has authored "The Conscious Ego", "The Beautiful Present"

Transgender must be included in social safety programs

Muhammad Arshid

The pandemic issue in the country enlarged already existing stigma and discrimination towards the transgender community in the society. During the pandemic, transgender community in Pakistan found themselves in distress and challenging situation. The social distancing protocols and preventive measures against COVID-19 affected their lives due to social inequalities in our society. They lost employment opportunities and then consequently they were unable to afford their basic needs of life including food, clothing, shelter and basic health facilities

ALL humans are created equal and are equal in terms of their basic rights including human dignity and natural rights. The human basic rights have been established through three milestones in human history. First of all it can be traced back to the Farewell Sermon delivered by Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) on the occasion of Hajj. This was a complete sermon where Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) has categorically emphasized on the equality of all humans, eliminating every type of prejudice on the basis of caste, colour, and sex. It was a complete message for rest of humanity to follow the guidelines and to keep human dignity as top most priority in every term. Secondly, almost the same rights have been established by United Nations universal declaration of human rights. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a milestone document in history; the United Nations notes that "it sets out, for the first time, fundamental human rights to be universally protected." It further agrees that The UN General Assembly adopted the declaration on December 10, 1948. While progress has been made in upholding human rights, violations continue, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights continues to remind us that we all have human rights and we must stand up for them. It is worth mentioning here that the same rights have been adopted in 1973 constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan. As

the Article no. 8 to 28 of the constitution ensure the fundamental rights without any prejudice, bias or discrimination. Despite of the commitments and establishment of human rights by above mentioned three historic documents the transgender community in Pakistan is suffering marginalization. They are reported to be sexually, mentally, psychology and physically harassed by the society. All human being in the world have equal human rights to enjoy without any discrimination of their, caste, creed and culture. But the transgender community enjoys the least amount of respect or rights in the world general and in Pakistan particular. Majority of the people in the country did not consider them as a part of their society, they don't like to eat, drink and interact with them. Being marginalized and mistreated in the society they do not have their fundamental rights and do not consider equally like other citizen of Pakistan. According to the Census of 2017, Pakistan's total population is 207.75 million and transgender people are 10418. This constitutes just .005 per cent of the total population of the country. The actual estimates of transgender in Pakistan are more than reported in the census. According to the estimate of trans-welfare unions, there are more two million transgender living with their Gurus/teachers only in colonies/rented houses. It is totally unjust to keep this communi-

ty miserable despite of historic judgment passed by Honorable Supreme Court of Pakistan to ensure their fundamental rights and same has been followed by a bill passed by august parliament of Pakistan. The COVID-19 pandemic and then governmental preventive measures of lockdown and closer of social and recreational activities throughout the country the vulnerable groups of daily wages, Rehry Ban and especially transgender community faced considerable challenges and miseries that suffered them more than others. The pandemic issue in the country enlarged already existing stigma and discrimination towards the transgender community in the society. During the pandemic, transgender community in Pakistan found themselves in distress and challenging situation. The social distancing protocols and preventive measures against COVID-19 affected their lives due to social inequalities in our society. They lost employment opportunities and then consequently they were unable to afford their basic needs of life including food, clothing, shelter and basic health facilities. Despite of all these commitments they are living a subaltern life in Pakistan where government need to consider them on priority basis and at least to include transgender in BISP, Ahsas and other social safety programs so that their survival can be ensured specially during these natural catastrophe like COVID-19.

– The writer is a Ph.D Scholar

Briefs

Imran Farhat signs off professional cricket

KARACHI: Left-handed opener Imran Farhat ends his professional cricket career with a century in his final List A game for Balochistan in Pakistan Cup. The 38-year-old Imran received a guard of honor from his side Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Balochistan is playing their last game of Pakistan Cup as they are last on the points table with no chance of qualifying for the final four. Imran smashed 123 off 88 balls. Imran feels honored to represent Pakistan while thanking his family to allow him to pursue his dream of playing cricket. "It is certainly an emotional moment for me to retire from the game which I have loved and have been passionate about since childhood," Imran said. "There have been highs and lows in my career, which is natural, but the fact that I got to get on the field for almost two and a half decades is something I will cherish forever," he added. PCB Chief Executive Wasim Khan congratulated Imran Farhat on his successful career. "Imran Farhat has been one of the most successful batsmen in Pakistan's domestic circuit and now has been willing to give back to Pakistan cricket what he has learned over his cricketer's career."

Chaos in New Delhi as farmers enter capital

From Page 01
From the city's north they went to its centre, home to government buildings. They commandeered cranes and used ropes to tear down roadblocks, forcing constables in riot gear to give way, Reuters witnesses said. A second group rode tractors to reach a key traffic junction in the city centre, also breaching barricades after similar clashes with police. Domestic television channels showed images of several bloodied protesters. Protest organiser Samyukt Kisan Morcha said the groups swarming from set routes did not represent the majority of farmers. "None of the leaders disappeared," the grouping of farm unions said in a statement. "They are following the set routes." Earlier, tens of thousands of bearded and turbanned farmers, many bundled against the winter cold, drove a convoy of tractors festooned with the Indian tricolour and union flags through the city's fringes.

Global ice sheets melting at 'worst-case' rates

LONDON: The rate at which ice is disappearing across the world matches "worst-case climate warming scenarios", UK scientists have warned in new research. A team from the universities of Edinburgh and Leeds and University College London said the rate at which ice is melting across the world's polar regions and mountains has increased markedly in the last three decades. Using satellite data, the experts found the Earth lost 28 trillion tonnes of ice between 1994 and 2017. The rate of loss has risen from 0.8 trillion tonnes per year in the 1990s to 1.3 trillion tonnes per year by 2017, with potentially disastrous consequences for people living in coastal areas. "The ice sheets are now following the worst-case climate warming scenarios set out by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)," said Dr Thomas Slater, a research fellow at Leeds' Centre for Polar Observation and Modelling. "Sea level rise on this scale will have very serious impacts on coastal communities this century."

Input from United Nations' IPCC has been critical to forming international climate change strategies, including the 2015 Paris Agreement under which the majority of greenhouse gas emitting nations agreed to mitigate the impact of global warming. The universities' research, published Monday in the European Geosciences Union's journal *The Cryosphere*, was the first of its kind to use satellite data.



KARACHI: Pakistan's bowler Nauman Ali in action during the first day of the first cricket Test match played between Pakistan and South Africa cricket teams at National Stadium. – DNA

Bowlers dominate on opening day of first Pakistan, SA Test

After reducing the Proteas side to a small total of 220 in their first innings on a track that seemed flat initially, the Pakistan side was provided a rude awakening as South African bowlers ripped through their top-order

SPORTS DESK
KARACHI: Bowlers dominated on the first day of the first Test between Pakistan and South Africa as 14 wickets fell at the National Stadium in Karachi to bring an end to an eventful yet even day of cricket. After reducing the Proteas side to a small total of 220 in their first innings on a track that seemed flat initially, the Pakistan side was provided a rude awakening as South African bowlers ripped through their top-order. Opener Abid Ali, who has been searching for form in recent

times, had his stumps uprooted, by pacer Kagiso Rabada, after scoring just four runs off nine deliveries as the ball stayed low. The fiery Rabada then got the ball to bounce higher than usual from the same length as debutant Imran Butt tried to fend off the brutal delivery only to get caught by substitute fielder Keegan Petersen. Veteran batsman Azhar Ali and skipper Babar Azam then tried to negate the aggression shown by the Proteas bowlers with a cautious approach. A master-stroke by skipper Quinton de Kock, to introduce left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj

in the final moments of the day, brought with it the huge wicket of the prolific Babar Azam (7 runs off 30 deliveries). Night-watchman Shaheen Afridi was cleaned up by a brutal delivery from pacer Anrich Nortje to reduce Pakistan to 27 for the loss of four wickets. Batsmen Azhar Ali (5 runs off 40 deliveries) and Fawad Alam (5 runs off 3 balls) played out the remaining deliveries to ensure that their side did not lose any more wickets at the end of an impactful day. Rabada was the pick of the bowlers for his side on day one picking up two quick wickets while giving away just eight runs in six overs in a hostile and fiery spell of fast-bowling. However, a wicket each by Maharaj and Nortje put Pakistan completely on the back-foot at the end of day-one. Earlier, South Africa's captain Quinton de Kock won the toss and elected to bat first on a visibly flat track against Pakistan. Shaheen Shah found his groove early picking up the edge of opener Aiden Markram, expertly caught by the diving debutant Imran Butt at second slip, after the batsman scored just 13 runs off 16 deliveries. Rassie van der Dussen (17 runs off 30 deliveries) was

the next to depart after a horrible mix-up with fellow batsman Dean Elgar, as wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan charged to the wickets in a Jonty Rhodes-esque manner to complete the run-out. Veteran batsman Faf du Plessis (23 runs off 46 balls) got a start but was undone by leg-spinner Yasir Shah as Rizwan collected a simple catch behind stumps. Skipper Quinton de Kock (15 runs off 23 deliveries), known for his flamboyant style of batting, took an ill-advised chance against debutant left-arm spinner Nauman Ali which landed in the capable hands of fielder Imran Butt.

Clashes break out in Tunisia after protester dies

WEB DESK
TUNISIA: Tunisian protester injured during clashes with police has died in hospital, state media reported, leading to more violent confrontations between demonstrators and security services in the town of Sbeitla about three hours south of the capital Tunis. Haykel Rachdi's family told local media he had been struck by a tear gas canister after joining the protests that erupted this month on the anniversary of Tunisia's 2011 revolution that introduced democracy in the North African nation. The Public Prosecutor's office in Kasserine, the biggest city near Sbeitla, has ordered an autopsy to determine the cause of Rachdi's death, the state news agency, TAP, said on Monday. After news of his death, a group of young men tried to storm and torch the Sbeitla police station, leading to more clashes, TAP reported. The incident raised the temperature ahead of demonstrations over inequality and police abuses planned on Tuesday in Tunis and other cities and backed by rights groups. Tunisia has seen a recent wave of nighttime clashes, with security forces carrying out mass arrests, as protesters angry at the failure of successive governments to deliver on the promise of the 2011 revolution amid economic collapse exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown measures.

UN chief urges global alliance to counter rise of neo-Nazis

FOREIGN DESK
NEW YORK: The secretary-general of the United Nations has urged coordinated global action to build an alliance against the growth and spread of neo-Nazism and white supremacy, and the resurgence of xenophobia, anti-Semitism and hate speech sparked partly by the COVID-19 pandemic. Antonio Guterres made the appeal on Monday at the annual Park East Synagogue and the UN International Holocaust Remembrance Service marking Wednesday's 76th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp, held virtually this year because of COVID-19. He also urged international action "to fight propaganda and disinformation", and called for stepped-up education on Nazi actions during World War II, stressing that nearly two-thirds of young people in the United States do not know that six million Jews were killed during the Holocaust. The pandemic "has exacerbated longstanding injustices and divisions", he warned. "Propaganda linking Jews with the pandemic, for example, by accusing them of creating the virus as part of a bid for global domination, would be ridiculous, if it were not so dangerous," he said. "This is just the latest manifestation of an anti-Semitic trope that dates back to at least the 14th century, when Jews were accused of spreading the bubonic plague."



DJIBOUTI: Pakistani Delegation that includes secretary-general International Parliamentarians' Congress (IPC) Senator Mohammad Ali Saif, Senator Mirza Mohammad Afridi, along with Mr. Fayyaz Thaheem met with the president of Arab parliament M. Adel Bin Abdoull Rahman Al Hassoumi. President expressed interest in cooperating with the international parliamentarians' congress (IPC) through mutual understanding. – DNA

Netherlands rocked by third night of rioting

Earlier PM Mark Rutte condemned what he called the "criminal violence" of the previous night, which police officials described as the "worst rioting in 40 years". The curfew, the first in the Netherlands since World War II, was imposed after the RIVM warned of a new wave of cases due to the "British variant"

WEB DESK
AMSTERDAM: Police in the Netherlands arrested at least 150 people after rioting broke out for a third night following weekend protests triggered by anger over a coronavirus lockdown and nighttime curfew. Riot police clashed with groups of protesters and used water cannon against looters on Monday in the port city of Rotterdam, where the mayor issued a decree broadening police powers of arrest. Rioters smashed windows and looted stores. They demolished bus stops, lit fires and attacked police

with fireworks and stones. Journalists and camera crews were also victims of the violence. Rotterdam Mayor Ahmed Aboutaleb called the mob "shameless thieves". Tear gas was used to disperse crowds in Haarlem as the unrest spread to smaller towns and cities including Amersfoort in the east, Geleen in the south, and The Hague. In Brabant and 's-Hertogenbosch, rioters tried to get into hospitals, local media reported. Police cordoned off the entrances and ambulances had to be diverted to other clinics. Police Chief Willem Woelders said on Twitter officers were

dealing with "rioting youths who are throwing fireworks". Earlier Prime Minister Mark Rutte condemned what he called the "criminal violence" of the previous night, which police officials described as the "worst rioting in 40 years". The curfew, the first in the Netherlands since World War II, was imposed after the National Institute for Health (RIVM) warned of a new wave of cases due to the "British variant" of COVID-19, although numbers of new infections in the Netherlands have been declining for weeks. Some 4,129 new cases were reported on Monday, the lowest number since December 1. Violators of the 9pm (20:00 GMT) to 4:30am (03:30 GMT) curfew, which will remain in force until at least February 10, face a 95 euro (\$115) fine. There are a number of exemptions including for people who have to work, attend funerals or walk their dogs, providing they present a certificate. The Netherlands was already under its toughest measures since the start of the pandemic, with bars and restaurants having closed in October, and schools and non-essential shops shut since December. Images posted on social media on Monday showed rioters looting a shop in Den Bosch and a press photographer being hit in the head in Haarlem, after an angry mob chased him off and threw a brick at him. Police Union chief Koen Simmers on Monday told public broadcaster NOS that police were prepared should the rioting continue. "I hope it was a one-off, but I'm afraid it could be a harbinger for the days and weeks to come," Simmers said. Some right-wing politicians, including Geert Wilders, have called on the government to send in the army to quell the riots. However, there is no indication that Rutte's cabinet is considering a military deployment.

Broadsheet probe body approved

From Page 01
expediency over morality to give safe passage to the corrupt people, which eventually led to acceptance of corruption in the society. He said the past regimes had decriminalized the corruption, which seriously damaged the moral fabric of the society, where an honest person was regarded as 'loser'. He said it was only Imran Khan, who literally had challenged the status quo for the first time in the history of Pakistan to purge the country of corruption. The agreement with Broad-sheet was signed by previous governments and the country might suffer losses in case of non-payment to Broadsheet, he added. The minister said contrary to previous practices, Prime Minister Imran Khan would not bow down to any pressure and hold all corrupt elements accountable. About reforms in Senate election process, he said everyone knew that votes were bought and sold in the Senate elections and the government wanted to restore the sanctity of upper house of the parliament. He said Prime Minister Imran Khan wanted transparency in Senate polls and the government was striving to restore sanctity of the Senate as sale and purchase of votes in Senate elections was quite common in past. A constitutional amendment bill to make the upper house elections transparent was already in the National Assembly, he added. He said the government could resort to present the bill in the National Assembly for ensuring open ballot in the Senate elections. Shibli said economic indicators were showing a positive trajectory as exports of the country were increasing swiftly due to prudent policies of the government. He said the previous government had left the national economy in a fragile situation but the incumbent government put it back on the right track.

JUI-F chief rubbishes dialogue rumors

From Page 01
Fazlur Rehman said that he has asked PPP leadership to take other political parties into confidence regarding the option. He admitted that the opposition parties are mulling over a strategy to jointly field the candidates in the upcoming Senate elections. The JUI-F chief said that all parties in the alliance took decisions after making consensus, however, each party has its own stance. He continued that he is in contact with Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif and PPP co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari. He said that both top leaders of PML-N and PPP have agreed for the early departure of the present government. Fazlur Rehman said that Nawaz and Zardari aimed for ousting the government despite their course of action vary from each other.

FB suspends Israeli PM's chatbot

WEB DESK
TEL AVIV: Facebook has removed a post by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and suspended a chatbot operated by his page for violating the company's privacy policy. According to The Jerusalem Post newspaper, Facebook took the move after Netanyahu's page asked to provide personal details of people over the age of 60, who did not get the coronavirus vaccination. On Thursday, Netanyahu's account on Twitter and Facebook published calls for the people over 60 to get the vaccination. So far, the data of the Israel Health Ministry says that more than 2.5 million Israelis received the vaccine. "In accordance with our privacy policy, we don't allow content that shares or asks for people's medical information," Facebook said in a statement cited by the newspaper. Netanyahu's Likud party said in a statement that Netanyahu meant to help in the awareness campaign to take the vaccination and to convince the people over 60 who are still hesitating to receive the vaccine.

Briefs

'Stop hoarding COVID-19 vaccines'

WEB DESK

JOHANNESBURG: South African President Cyril Ramaphosa on Tuesday urged wealthy countries not to hoard surplus doses of COVID-19 vaccine, saying the world needed to come together to fight the pandemic.

South Africa has recorded nearly half the coronavirus deaths in Africa, and the continent as a whole is struggling to secure sufficient vaccines to start countrywide inoculation programmes for its 1.3 billion people. "We need those who have hoarded the vaccines to release the vaccines so that other countries can have them," Ramaphosa told a virtual meeting of the World Economic Forum.

"The rich countries of the world went out and acquired large doses. ... Some countries even acquired up to four times what their population needs ... to the exclusion of other countries." World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus last week described this unequal access as a "catastrophic moral failure", urging countries and manufacturers to spread doses more fairly around the world.

Ramaphosa chairs the African Union, which this month secured 270 million shots for the continent to supplement 600 million doses coming from the COVAX scheme co-led by the WHO. Those doses are expected to become available this year but none have arrived yet, while parts of Europe, Asia and the Americas are well into their vaccination programmes.

Portugal's COVID surge raises alarm

FOREIGN DESK

As little as nine months ago, Portugal was considered a model of success in the battle against COVID-19, particularly in comparison to neighbouring Spain. But in early 2021, with the country's rate of new cases reaching the highest in the world in proportion to its population last week, and ambulances queuing outside Lisbon hospitals as its health service buckles under the strain, it is a grimly different story.

"The main hospitals are over-charged with sick people and doctors," Manuel Carvalho, the director of one of Portugal's biggest daily newspapers, Público, told Al Jazeera. "It is increasingly impossible to take care of all people that ask for help. Things are really bad and there are no signs of improvement." Record death tolls from the pandemic were set each day last week, rising steadily from 152 on January 17 to 275 on January 24, while on Saturday 15,000 new cases were registered in just 24 hours. All of this is a far cry from early last year, when Portugal was the last country in Europe to register a COVID-19 case, on March 2. Having swiftly brought in confinement measures, until May, while Spain's contagions marked Europe-wide highs, Portugal's total contagion figures were at times as little as 10 percent of its neighbour.

Janet Yellen confirmed as US Treasury secretary

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON: Janet Yellen was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the country's 78th Treasury secretary and the first woman to hold the job, putting her in charge of overseeing an economy that continues to be hobbled by the coronavirus pandemic.

The Senate approved Yellen in a 84-15 vote on Monday, making her among the first of President Joe Biden's cabinet picks to be confirmed. She will be sworn in later in the evening by a Treasury official, according to a person familiar with the matter, becoming only the second American to have been both Federal Reserve chair and Treasury secretary. The 74-year-old was also the first woman to head the U.S. central bank, which she left in early 2018 after overseeing a winding back of monetary stimulus after the last recession and its slow recovery. Now, she's back in crisis-fighting mode, this time as a Democratic administration's top economic official.



KUWAIT CITY: Pakistan ambassador to Kuwait Syed Sajjad Haider calls on Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Kuwaiti minister of interior and discussed issues of mutual interest. – DNA

Political reforms package of Kazakhstan President presented

The registration barrier for the establishment of political parties has been halved (to 20,000 members). A 30% quota has been introduced for women and young people in the party lists of their candidates for elections. The concept of the parliamentary opposition is enshrined in law

DNA

The third package of political reforms of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan K. Tokayev presented at the opening of the first meeting Majilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan of the VII convocation Since taking duties the results of the popular vote in the elections of June 9, 2019. President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev called for the simultaneous preservation of the continuity of the current state policy with the time-tested course of the First President-Elbasy Nursultan Nazarbayev and the consistent implementation of a set of political reforms aimed at further strengthening democratic institutions and mechanisms for effective communication and interaction with civil society within the framework of the concept of the "hearing state". The first package of political reforms was presented at a meeting of the National Council of Public Trust (CNPC) on December 20, 2019. All solutions have already been implemented in practice. The registration barrier for the establishment of political parties has been halved (to 20,000 members). A 30% quota has been introduced for women and young people in the party lists of their candidates for elections. The concept of the parliamentary opposition is enshrined in law. The decriminalization of article 130 ("slander") and the humanization of article 174 ("inciting social discord") were initiated.) The Criminal Code. A new law on rallies was adopted, which systematized and simplified the requirements for organizers of peaceful assemblies. Kazakhstan has acceded to the Second Optional Protocol of the Interna-



tional Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aimed at the abolition of the death penalty. The second package of political reforms was announced on September 1, 2020 in the annual Address of the President to the people of Kazakhstan. In it, the Head of State announced a gradual transition from 2021 to direct elections of rural akims. Special attention is paid to strengthening mechanisms for the protection of human rights. To this end, the Head of State pointed to the need to improve legislation to combat torture, human trafficking, and protect citizens (especially children) from cyberbullying. The aim was to become a party to the Optional Protocol to the Convention

on the Rights of the Child on the communications procedure. The Head of State presented the third package of political reforms at the first meeting of the newly elected Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan on January 15, 2021. The new initiatives of the President are of great importance in terms of further institutional development of the political system of Kazakhstan and improving the system of human rights protection. In particular, they were asked to reduce the threshold for passing elections to the Mazhilis of the Parliament for political parties from 7 to 5%. Thanks to this norm, political competition will increase, and many parties will increase their chances of getting into parliament. It will also take into account the views of as wide a segment of the population as possible when developing public policy. Enter the "against all" column in the ballots for voting at all levels of elections. The introduction of such a column in elections at all levels will give voters a legitimate tool for expressing an alternative position. In the future, after the election of rural mayors, go to the electability of district mayors. For the first time, the Head of State outlined the prospects for further democratization of the electoral process at the level of local self-government, which provides for increasing the role of the population in the management of their region. Legislate the institution of online petitions. Such a tool as online petitions will help to implement the concept of a "hearing state" more broadly and accurately, as well as to involve civil society in the decision-making process. Adopt a separate law on the Ombudsman (the law will streamline the activities of this institution in various fields and sectors). The Head of State emphasizes the importance of further improvement of legislation in the field of human rights protection.

Italy PM quits to seek new govt

ROME: Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte resigned Tuesday in the hope of forming a new government after weeks of turmoil in his ruling coalition, leaving Italy rudderless as it battles the deadly coronavirus pandemic.

He tendered his resignation to President Sergio Mattarella, the ultimate arbiter of Italian political crises, who invited him to stay on in a caretaker capacity pending discussions on what happens next. The uneasy coalition that has led Italy since September 2019 was fatally weakened earlier this month by the withdrawal of former premier Matteo Renzi's small but crucial Italia Viva party.

Ahead of a key vote in parliament this week that he looked set to lose, Conte informed his cabinet on Tuesday that he would quit in what

supporters said was a move to form a new government. After the meeting with Mattarella, a spokesman for the president said he "reserves the right to decide (what to do next) and invited the government to stay in office in a caretaker capacity".

Mattarella will open discussions with party leaders on Wednesday afternoon which are likely to lead into Thursday - leaving a vacuum at the top of the eurozone's third largest economy at a crucial time. Italy was the first European country to face the full force of the Covid-19 pandemic and has since suffered badly, with the economy plunged into recession and deaths still rising by around 400 a day. Parts of the country remain under partial lockdown, the vaccination programme has slowed and a deadline is looming to agree plans to spend billions of euros in European Union recovery funds. Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio, one of the leaders of the populist Five Star Movement (M5S), the largest in parliament, earlier said it was time to rally around Conte.



RABAT: Pakistan ambassador to Morocco in a meeting with Mohiuddin Khan, former distinguished Professor of Religions at Mohammad V University, Rabat. Born in Rajasthan, he is a witness to the birth of our nation and the harsh difficulties of partition. He now runs a thriving surgical import business, sourcing products from Sialkot. – DNA

Trump impeachment article goes to US Senate

The formal step kickstarts the trial phase of the impeachment process, in which all 100 senators will sit as jurors to hear evidence and legal arguments from the House managers and Trump's defence team. To be convicted, the Senate must secure a two-thirds majority on the impeachment charge

DNA

WASHINGTON: House impeachment managers arrive to deliver an article of impeachment against former President Donald Trump to the Senate for trial on accusations of inciting the deadly January 6 attack on the Capitol. The US House of Representatives has presented its article of impeachment against Donald Trump to the Senate, a step that formally sets in motion the Senate trial against the former United States president, which is expected to start next month. Walking from one side of the US Capitol to the other, nine House

managers appointed by Speaker Nancy Pelosi hand-delivered the impeachment document to the Senate on Monday evening. The article charged Trump with "incitement of insurrection" in relation to the deadly storming on January 6 of the US Capitol building in Washington, DC by a mob of his supporters. The House impeached Trump on January 13 on the same charge - making him the first president in US history to be impeached twice. Representative Jamie Raskin, a constitutional scholar and one of the House managers who will be acting as prosecutors in the Senate trial against Trump, read the article of impeachment

out loud to the upper house on Monday. "President Trump repeatedly issued false statements asserting that the presidential election results were the product of widespread fraud, and should not be accepted by the American people, or certified by state or federal officials," Raskin said. The formal step kickstarts the trial phase of the impeachment process, in which all 100 senators will sit as jurors to hear evidence and legal arguments from the House managers and Trump's defence team. To be convicted, the Senate must secure a two-thirds majority on the impeachment charge. If that happens, a subsequent vote could

bar Trump from running for public office again in the future. Senate Democratic and Republican leaders have agreed on a timeline for the trial, which is expected to begin during the week of February 8. "Both the House managers and the former president's counsel will have a period of time to draft their legal briefs, just as they did in previous trials," Senate leader Chuck Schumer said in remarks to the chamber on Monday. "Once the briefs are drafted, presentations by the parties will commence the week of February 8th," he said. Senators will be sworn in as jurors on Wednesday and a summons will be sent by

the Senate to the former president, requiring him to answer the article of impeachment. Trump earlier appeared defiant amid accusations he incited the Capitol mob in a speech he gave before the breach and in repeated false claims that the presidential election had been stolen from him. Before the House vote to impeach him, Trump had said his speech to the January 6 rally of his supporters was "totally appropriate". Senator Patrick Leahy, a senior Democrat who holds the title of president pro tempore of the Senate, will preside over the trial instead of Supreme Court Justice John Roberts.

China to conduct military drills

FOREIGN DESK

BEIJING: China said on Tuesday it will conduct military exercises in the South China Sea this week, just days after Beijing bristled at a U.S. aircraft carrier group's entry into the disputed waters. A notice issued by the country's Maritime Safety Administration prohibited entry into a portion of waters in the Gulf of Tonkin to the west of the Leizhou Peninsula in south-western China from Jan. 27 to Jan. 30, but it did not offer details on when the drills would take place or at what scale. A U.S. carrier group led by the USS Theodore Roosevelt entered the South China Sea on Saturday to promote "freedom of the seas," the U.S. military said, days after Joe Biden began his term as president. The contested waters have become another flashpoint in the increasingly testy bilateral relationship between Beijing and Washington. The U.S. military has steadily increased its activities there in recent years as China asserts its territorial claims in the area in conflict with neighboring countries including Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Brunei and Taiwan. The announcement of the drills in the Gulf of Tonkin, just east of Vietnam, came as the Southeast Asian country opened a key Communist Party congress in Hanoi. China on Monday complained that the United States frequently sends aircraft and vessels into the South China Sea, through which trillion dollars in trade flow every year, to "flex its muscles" and said such actions are not conducive to peace and stability in the region.

Construction of alternate Babri Mosque begins

FOREIGN DESK

NEW DELHI: The groundbreaking ceremony for the alternate Babri Mosque was held Tuesday in the northern Indian state of Ayodhya. A flag hoisting ceremony and a tree plantation drive was held to mark the official start of its construction. The Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation Trust will oversee the project that has drawn mixed emotions among Indian Muslims. A decades-long bloody dispute ensued after the 16th-century Babri Mosque in the state of Uttar Pradesh was torn down by Hindu hardliners in 1992, who claimed the site was the birthplace of one of their gods, Lord Ram. In November 2019, India's top court ruled that a temple can be built at the site, and ordered the allotment of a separate piece of land for the construction of another mosque in place of the Babri Mosque. "The process of construction has officially started today on Republic Day. Soil testing was also conducted at the site," Athar Hussain, secretary of the trust, told media.

Indian Muslim comic in jail for weeks

FOREIGN DESK

NEW DELHI: A Indian Muslim stand-up comic has spent 25 days in a Madhya Pradesh jail for jokes he did not tell an audience, but on suspicions he was "going to". Mumbai-based Munawar Faruqui, 28, is facing legal action in two states. In Madhya Pradesh, he was arrested while performing by Indore police for allegedly insulting Hindu deities during rehearsals. In neighbouring Uttar Pradesh, he is sought by the police in another case of allegedly insulting Hindu deities as well as Home Minister Amit Shah. On Monday, the Indore bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court reserved its order on Faruqui's bail application. The court was hearing the comedian's bail application after two pleas were rejected by a lower court earlier this month. Both the states are governed by the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), of which Shah is a member and which also controls the federal government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Briefs

Cabinet committee reviews CPEC progress

ZUBAIR AHMED

ISLAMABAD: Minister for planning Asad Umar has stressed on maintaining the momentum of CPEC projects and following the timelines for their early completion. Chairing the meeting of Cabinet committee on CPEC in Islamabad today (Tuesday), he said CPEC is a priority project for enhancing Pak-China economic cooperation. The forum reviewed the progress on various projects undertaken by the Working Groups under CPEC. The meeting was briefed on the overall progress of CPEC projects in Industrial Cooperation, Energy, Infrastructure, Gwadar, Science and Technology, Socio-Economic Development, Agriculture, Transport and Communications and issues faced in the implementation of these projects. The committee also emphasized that unresolved inter-ministerial issues should be brought before the Cabinet Committee on CPEC directly by the respective Ministries along with recommendations for their resolution. The committee noted that significant progress has been achieved on various projects.

Taliban delegation visits Iran

DNA

TEHRAN: A high-level Taliban delegation arrived in Tehran on Tuesday for talks with Iranian officials on the peace process in war-torn Afghanistan.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said the delegation's visit of the delegation, led by deputy leader Mullah Ghani Baradar, comes upon an invitation from Tehran. The delegation will meet senior Iranian officials during the visit, including Foreign Minister Javad Zarif and Iran's special envoy for Afghanistan Ebrahim Taherianfar. The ongoing intra-Afghan peace process and US troop withdrawal from the war-torn country are expected to figure high during the discussions.

Taliban spokesman Mohammad Naeem said the two sides will discuss "relations between Tehran and Kabul, issues related to Afghan refugees in Iran, and prevailing political and security situation of Afghanistan and the region". The visit comes in the middle of the second round of intra-Afghan talks in Doha and days after the new US administration said it will review a deal reached between the militant group and the outgoing Donald Trump administration on the draw-down of US troops from the war-ravaged country. The second leg of marathon talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban that resumed on Jan. 6 has made little progress, even as violence peaks in Afghanistan. The rising incidents of violence and high civilian casualties have cast a shadow over the talks that first began in September last year.

Pakistan opposes new permanent seats at UNSC

DNA

NEW YORK: At the UN, Pakistan has firmly opposed the creation of new permanent seats in the Security Council. Addressing the first meeting of Intergovernmental Negotiations Framework during the seventy fifth session of the UN, Pakistan's Permanent Representative at the world body Munir Akram said creation of new permanent seats will make the Security Council less representative, less effective, more divided and erode the principle of sovereign equality of states. Munir Akram reiterated Islamabad's principled position for comprehensive reforms of the Security Council which meets the interests of all member states.

'Entrecôte a new dining experience

Andreas Ferrarese, Ambassador of Italy, Erik Beishembiev and Akan Rakhmatellin, Ambassadors of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan respectively enjoying food. Sheikh Arsalan and Ansar Mahmood Bhatti were also present

DNA

ISLAMABAD: It was indeed quite an experience and challenge to start a new business during the pandemic and that too restaurant business for hospitality industry happens to be the industry hit really hard by the pandemic. In such circumstances Enrecote has really made its mark not only because of its ambience but its food also. On Tuesday, the ambassadors of Italy, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan visited recently inaugurated restaurant 'Entrecôte Islamabad', located at F-7 Markaz Islamabad. Chairman ISE, Zahid Latif Khan hosted the lunch.

Andreas Ferrarese, Ambassador of Italy, Erik Beishembiev and Akan Rakhmatellin, Ambassadors of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan respectively enjoying food. Sheikh Arsalan and Ansar Mahmood Bhatti were also present. The restaurant provides a wide range of quality food to the residents of the twin cities—Islamabad and Rawalpindi. Entrecôte Islamabad specializes in Steaks made of organic meat and imported spices to the people who value quality food and environment in the heart of the Islamabad.



The restaurant epitomizes the cleanliness, quality food and services suited to the both families and the couples. Since their creation they have had the continued desire to create a space where casual comfort welcomes a cultivated palate, a place for a delicious steaks, a leisurely brunch, or simply just because. Even though Entrecôte is a locally owned restaurant, they bring an international level of cuisine and a fine dines experience that matches international norms. They began with a mission to serve the best steaks, cooked to perfection with high-quality fresh ingredients, meticulously selected to bring you the most flavorful meals in Islamabad. The outdoor seating adds up to the whole experience especially during these COVID times where dine-in are closed on orders from NCOG. A bright sunshine warms you up during the day and heaters are provided to guest to make atmosphere real cozy for guests. It's always an overall experience at Entrecôte Islamabad and not just the top quality food that attracts people to Entrecôte Islamabad.

'Indian media is propaganda machine controlled by politicians'

DNA

BEIJING: In particular, in recent years, the Indian media have played a very negative role in Sino-Indian relations. Some Indian media have increasingly lost their independence and objectivity, just like a propaganda machine controlled by the politicians and national extremism. The reason why China has taken countermeasures against India is that India has gone too far on the border issue in recent years, India has gone too far not only with China, but also with Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh. On this issue, there is a general consensus among the people of other countries in South Asia. This was stated by Cheng Xizhong, visiting professor at Southwest University of Political Science and Law and senior fellow of the Charhar Institute in his article issued on Tuesday.

day. He said, on January 24, more than two months after the 8th round of Corps Commander Level Meeting, China and India held the 9th round of Corps Commander Level Meeting to negotiate settlement of the border confrontation. Although the official press release has not yet been released, the Indian media suddenly exaggerated the tension on the border, saying that the border troops of the two countries recently had a physical conflict in the Sikkim section of the Sino-Indian border. At least 20 Chinese soldiers were injured, while only four Indian soldiers got injured. Chinese sources quickly responded that "the Indian media often have no bottom line and make up false reports." "We have received some inquiries about the physical conflict between the Indian troops and the Chinese troops in Sikkim," the Indian Army said in a statement on January 25. "It needs to be clarified that on



January 20, there was a slight confrontation in Naku La area of North Sikkim, which was resolved by the local commanders in accordance with the established agreement between the two sides. The media should not exaggerate the fake report", the statement said. The 9th round of Corps Commander Level Meeting has not come easily. For a long time, the Indian media has been constantly stirring up the flames, confusing the public. If it goes on like this, it will damage its own reputation and the interests of the country in the end. The demarcation of

the border between China and India is an issue left over by history and also an issue left over by the British colonial days. Since China and India established diplomatic relations 70 years ago, there were opportunities to formally resolve the border issue. Unfortunately, due to various reasons, the opportunities have been missed. At present, both China and India are in the rising period of national rejuvenation, awareness of geopolitical competition is rising, especially the territorial issue involves the national feelings of the two countries, in addition, there are third-party interference and other reasons, which makes it more difficult to solve border issue. Cheng Xizhong observed that over the past few decades, India's border deployment is far more than China's, whether in terms of permanent troops or military equipment. This is determined by the natural and geographical environ-

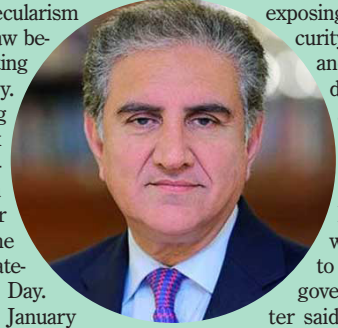
ment of the border areas between the two countries, because the altitude of China's border area is higher, while that of India's border area is relatively low, so it is not necessary for China to have a large number of troops in the border areas. What's more, China persists in building a good-neighbourly relationship and partnership with its neighbours, and China wants to resolve the border dispute peacefully with India through consultation and dialogue. Therefore, from this perspective, China does not wish to send a large number of troops to the border areas. Since last year, China's increase in the number of troops in the border areas is a response and countermeasure to the Indians substantial increase of troops in border areas. Its fundamental purpose is to defend China's territorial sovereignty and interests and to prevent the Indian troops from taking further dangerous actions driven by adventurism, he said.

Qureshi slams so called 'democracy' of India

NAVEED MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Tuesday said in India's 'so-called democracy', the secularism was on decline with black law being imposed aimed at targeting minorities in the country. "Instead of strengthening democracy, more black laws are being implemented across India as Hindutva ideology emerges stronger with each passing day," the Foreign Minister said in a statement on India's Republic Day. The Foreign Minister said January 26 was observed as 'Black Day' all over the world as protest against the heinous policies of Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) government. He said the amendments in India's constitution denied the identity of Kashmiris. "Kash-

miris in India and across the globe are marking the Black Day because India has taken away their basic constitutional rights," he said. Qureshi said foreign media and international human rights organizations had started exposing the atrocities of Indian security forces in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He said on India's Republic Day, "tractors and not tanks were seen" at the Republic Day parade as farmers strongly protested against the local laws. He said India's economy was further deteriorating due to negative policies of the BJP government. The Foreign Minister said minorities in today's India felt insecure, particularly Muslims, Bengalis and Dalits. Besides Pakistan, Qureshi said India's attitude towards the neighbouring countries including Nepal, China and Bangladesh had worsened the diplomatic ties.



Black Day observed

ISLAMABAD: Kashmir on both sides of the Line of Control and the world over observed India's Republic Day as Black Day on Tuesday to send a loud and clear message to the world and India that the Kashmiris reject Indian illegal occupation and struggling to secure their right to self-determination. The call for the observance of the Black Day was given by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Mirwaiz-led Hurriyat forum and other Hurriyat leaders and organizations. The day was being marked by a complete strike and shutdown in occupied Kashmir and anti-India demonstrations and rallies in Azad Kashmir, Pakistan and world capitals. - DNA

Criteria for Covid-19 vaccination being set



ISLAMABAD: Leader of the House in the Senate Dr. Shahzad Waseem on Tuesday said that a mechanism and criteria were being developed for COVID-19 pandemic vaccination. Speaking in the Senate, he said that Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) had already approved the vaccines while process of its import would be started soon. He said that vaccination for COVID-19 was an important national level issue and there should be no ambiguity on this issue. Earlier, speaking on the COVID-19 vaccine, Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi said that priority should be given in vaccination to the heart and other patients as they are more

vulnerable to the pandemic. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed paid a glowing tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, saying that he was visionary leader and well aware of the Indian mind set. He informed the House that farmers protesting in India on republic day were chanted slogans Pakistan Zindabad and Khalistan Zindabad.

NAB would never harass any genuine businessman

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Justice (Retd) Javed Iqbal, Chairman, NAB has said that the business community was the backbone of the economy as it was rendering great service to the country by promoting business activities, providing jobs, increasing exports and bringing foreign exchange to the country, therefore, NAB would never take any action to harass any genuine businessman, but will go after those who commit fraud with people. He said that NAB has never asked any businessman about his source of capital and investment except for money laundering cases. He said that NAB never stopped any investment project as they were contributing to strengthen the country's economy. He said that he has already issued instructions to NAB authorities that no businessman should be called through telephone to NAB office nor should be humiliated in any manner. He said that he had appointed one full time Director each in NAB HQs and regional offices to deal with the complaints of the business community, but

no complaints were sent to them. He urged that the business community should take advantage of the services of these Directors for redress of their complaints. He said that ICCI get the list of cases of the business community to send to him and he would decide them within 30 days except for those cases, which were subject to court. He said he was ready to provide a desk of NAB

in ICCI for better coordination. He expressed these views while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCCI). NAB Spokesman Nawazish Ali Asim also accompanied him. Justice (Retd) Javed Iqbal said that NAB has transferred all tax related and under invoices cases of business community to

FBR and no such case of business community was currently pending with his institution. He said that if any businessman has any complaint against NAB, he should approach the Director of concerned area while he was also available on the last Thursday of every month for listening to the complaints of people. He said that NAB got returned around Rs.5 billion of stuck-up

investment from two housing societies to people in Islamabad/Rawalpindi and Lahore. He said that during his tenure, NAB has recovered Rs.487 billion and filed 1235 references in court, but even one percent of these references was not against the business community. He said that NAB also recovered billions of dollars from the king makers. He said that NAB also recovered Rs.10.15 billion of wheat theft from one province. He said that NAB was working only to protect the interests of the Estate of Pakistan and would never take dictation from any authority nor will it be blackmailed by anyone. He said that only 25-30 judges were dealing with 1235 references in NAB courts and emphasized that the strength of NAB courts should be increased for speedy trial of corruption cases. Speaking at the occasion, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry lauded the efforts of Chairman NAB for elimination of corruption and said that reducing corruption & promoting transparency would help in better growth of business and investment activities.



Khawaja Asif seeks Class B in jail

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Khawaja Asif, arrested in assets beyond means case, has on Tuesday moved an accountability court in Lahore to obtain Class B in jail. It has been stated in the application that Khawaja Asif is a sitting Member National Assembly (MNA), former senator and minister, an LLL, a senior citizen and an under trial suspect, therefore, he should be kept separate from other inmates. The petition further said that the PML-N leader should be provided a heater and medical facilities in jail. Khawaja Asif has also requested the court to allow homemade food.

Roosevelt Hotel not being sold: Senate told

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Aviation Division Ghulam Sarwar Khan Tuesday apprised the Senate that Roosevelt Hotel was not being sold, however, it was being leased out for setting up a joint venture project. The Cabinet Committee on Privatization in its meeting held on November 15, 2019 considered the proposal submitted by the Ministry of Privatization regarding leasing out the Roosevelt site, he added. Replying to a question during the Question Hour, the minister said the same was under process in the Ministry of Privatization. He said the government had decided to shut down operation of the Roosevelt Hotel, New York, as it was closed on December 18, 2020. The reasons for the closures of the hotel were included imposing restriction on travel to and from the United States of America by President Trump March 12, 2020, closure of all schools, restaurants, bars and theaters and 90 percent reduction of Roosevelt's occupancy. He said Roosevelt's cash flows resultantly reduced drastically and the PIA-IL funded the cash shortfall from its resources. Continuing partial hotel operation in the wake of cancellation of UNGA, fashion show, NY Marathon, US Open etcetera became unsustainable, as hotel's revised forecast projected additional substantial cash short falls, he said. He said the PIA-IL had advanced approximately \$17 million till to date in order to protect the asset and to meet mandatory payments. Roosevelt did not qualify for any bailout packages offered by the US government as ultimate beneficial owner being a sovereign state, he said.

Venue for PDM's Kashmir Day rally changed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: After a telephonic conversation between PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif and JUI-F chief Maulana Fazl ur Rehman, the venue for the Pakistan Democratic Movement's (PDM) Kashmir Day rally has been moved from Rawalpindi to Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Citing unnamed sources, media reported on Tuesday that a delegation of senior PML-N leaders including AJK PM Raja Farooq Haider and Shahid Khaqan Abbasi had called on the Pakistan Democratic Movement's (PDM) chief following Nawaz's call. The decision to move the venue from Rawalpindi to AJK was finalised after the meeting and reportedly on the request of the PML-N, which is hosting the February 5 political gathering. Earlier this month, the Maulana had announced that the Pakistan Democratic Movement's (PDM) would hold a Kashmir Day rally at Rawalpindi's Liaquat Bagh to "show solidarity with the Kashmiri people".